

Cover art: "Healing Hands," by Joseph Holston was commissioned by the National Medical Assosciation (NMA), through the generous support of Eli Lilly and Company, in commemoration of the centennial anniversary of NMA's founding in 1895. The images in this oil collage are a tribute to the contributions of African-American physicians to the advancement of medical science, scholarship, and service.





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Conceived in no spirit of racial exclusiveness, fostering no ethnic antagonism, but born of the exigencies of the American environment, the National Medical Association has for its object the banding together for mutual cooperation and helpfulness the men and women of African descent who are legally and honorably engaged in the practice of the profession of medicine

C. V. Roman, MD (1908)

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 1. Perlin E, Taylor RE, Peck CC. Clinical pharmokinetics: a simplified approach, part 2. *J Natl Med Assoc.* 1986;78:835-842.
- 2. Bell CC, Bland I, Houston E, Jones BE. Enhancement of knowledge and skills for psychiatric treatment of black populations. In: Chun JC, Dunstan PJ, Ross-Sheriff F, eds. Mental Health and People of Color. Washington, DC: Howard University Press; 1983:205-237.
- 3. The 1984 Report of the Joint National Committee on Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Pressure. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office; 1984. US Dept of Health and Human Services publication NIH 84-1088.

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Management of Obesity in Low-Income African Americans

Lalita Kaul and Joseph J. Nidiry

The Bariatrics Clinic at Howard University Hospital was initiated to help low-income African-American adults with low literacy skills in the control of obesity. Essential components of the treatment include nutrition education, exercise, and behavior modification related to food intake. The nutrition education component involves teaching nutritional needs taking into account low literacy skills, low economic status, and individual food preferences. A realistic diet plan is based on individual needs, economic status, availability of foods, likes and dislikes, lifestyle, and family dynamics. On average, patients lost about two pounds a week on this program with a 14-pound weight loss in seven weeks. There has been a 10% dropout from this program as opposed to dropout rates of 40% to 50% in other treatments. The main reasons for the success of this program is that it is individualized and it is sensitive to food preferences.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection in Haiti Jude A. Pierre and Arthur M. Fournier

This article reviews human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection in Haiti. The evolution of the epidemic in Haiti, its spread from urban to rural areas, its varied clinical manifestations, and the attitudes of Haitian people toward HIV infection provide important lessons on understanding and managing this infection in a developing country. The heterosexual spread of HIV, particularly among the poor, is well-documented, as is the role of other sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis. Coinfection of HIV and tuberculosis have led researchers to study the effects of a 6-month supervised intermittent tuberculosis therapy both in controlling tuberculosis and slowing the progression of HIV. Various surveys and discussion groups about acquired immunodeficiency syndrome knowledge and beliefs demonstrate a large deficit in HIV education despite campaigns to educate the population. The great impact of HIV on morbidity and mortality in Haiti indicates that a great deal of work still needs to be accomplished and demonstrates the frustration of fighting the infection in countries with inadequate resources and infrastructure. Advances in HIV vaccine research seems to be the most promising option for developing countries such as Haiti.

FEBRUARY 21, 1999

Region II Executive Committee Meeting. To be held at the Renaissance Hotel, Washington, DC. For more information, contact Sandra W. McGruder, MD, at (215) 843-3410.

MARCH 1999 National Nutrition Month

MARCH 2, 1999
"NMA Live! Town Hall
Meeting." To be held in
Houston, Texas. For more information, call (202) 347-1895.

MARCH 6, 1999 SNMA Region 8 Conference.

To be held at the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. For more information, call (202) 371-1616.

MARCH 13, 1999

Lasalle D. Leffall, Jr, Surgical Society Program. To be held at the Ambulatory Care Center, Howard University Hospital, Washington, DC. 4 hours of CME Category I credits available. For more information, call (202) 806-5620.

MARCH 15, 1999

Deadline for the submission of poster abstracts for the 1999 Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly of the NMA in Las Vegas, NV. Send abstract to William E. Matory, MD, Director of CME, National Medical Association, 1012 Tenth St, NW,

Washington, DC 20001-4492, or call (202) 347-1895. See abstract form in the JNMA and on the NMA website at NMAnet.org.

MARCH 15, 1999

Drew-Syphax Lecture and Seminar. To be held at the Ambulatory Care Center, Howard University, Washington, DC. Presented by the Department of Surgery. 2 hours of CME Category I credits available. For more information, call (202) 806-5620.

MARCH 18-21, 1999

Prevention '99. "Scientific, Political, and Social Priorities for the 21st Century." To be held at the Marriott Crystal Gateway, Arlington, Virginia. For more information, call (202) 466-2662.

MARCH 19, 1999

"NMA Live! Town Hall Meeting." To be held in Los Angeles, California. For more information, call (202) 347-1895.

MARCH 23, 1999

American Diabetes Alert. For more information, call 1-800-DIABETES.

MARCH 28-30, 1999

Second Annual Conference on Vaccine Research: "Basic Science-Product Development-Clinical and Field Studies." To be held in Bethesda, Maryland. Sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Center for Organization, Children's Vaccine Initiative, International Society for Vaccines, and the Albert B. Sabin Vaccine Institute. For more information, contact Mr Kip Kantelo at (301) 656-0003, or visit the website at http://www.nfid.org/conferences.

MARCH 29-APRIL 1, 1999 11th Annual National Managed Health Care Congress (NMHCC). To be held in Atlanta, Georgia. For more information, call (888) 8822500 or visit the website at www.nmhcc.org.

APRIL 1999

National Cancer Control Month. For more information, call (800) ACS-2345.

APRIL 1999

Region III-NMA Annual Meeting. To be held in Louisville, Kentucky. For more information, contact Albert W. Morris, Jr, MD, Region III Chair, at (901) 345-0701.

APRIL 1-4, 1999 SNMA National Convention.

To be held in Miami, Florida. For more information, call (202) 371-1616.

APRIL 5-11, 1999

National Public Health Week. Visit the website at http://www.apha.org.

APRIL 7, 1999

World Health Day. For more information, call (202) 466-5883.

APRIL 10-20, 1999 NMA/Department of Commerce Trade Mission to South Africa and Uganda. For more information, contact Gary C. Dennis, MD, NMA President, at (202) 347-1895.

APRIL 19, 1999

W. Lester Henry Symposium. To be held at the Ambulatory Care Center, Howard University, Washington, DC. Presented by the Division of Gastroenterology.

the Division of Gastroenterology. For more information, call (202) 806-5620.

APRIL 19, 1999
Landmark Conference-Health
Issues and Concerns of
Women of Color: A Call to
Action. Sponsored by Howard
University Office of the Vice
President for Health Affairs. For
more information, contact Celia
J. Maxwell, MD, at (202) 8657470.

APRIL 23-24, 1999 NMA Board of Trustees. To be held at the Renaissance Hotel, Washington, DC. For more information, call (202) 347-1895.

APRIL 29, 1999 Satellite Broadcast Video

Conference "Update on Preventing Perinatal Transmission of HIV."

Sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Public Health Training Network. For more information, call the CDC's fax information system at (888) 232-3299 and request document #130026 or visit the website at http://www.cdcnpin.org/broadcast.

APRIL 29, 1999
"NMA Live! Town Hall
Meeting." To be held in

Charlotte, North Carolina. For more information, call (202) 347-1895.

APRIL 30-MAY 2

Region IV-NMA Annual Meeting. To be held at the Sheraton Hotel, Bloomington, Minnesota. For more information, contact Nedra Joyner-Triplett, MD, Region IV Chair, at (773) 723-4646.

AUGUST 8-13, 1999
104th Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly of the NMA. The 60th Annual Meeting of the Auxiliary to the NMA. To be held in Las Vegas, Nevada. For more information, call (202) 347-1895.

Calendar Listings

The Calendar lists conventions, courses, and other events of interest to NMA members, or events concerning the NMA's mission. Send information about coming events for the Calendar to Theresa Greene Reed, MD, MPH, at tgreed@cpcug.org or Erik Young, 1012 Tenth St, NW, Washington, DC 20001, or call (202) 347-1895, ext 19, or e-mail erik@NMAnet.org.